

APR 26 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

2006 Quadrennial Regulatory Review – Review of the  
Commission’s Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other  
Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the  
Telecommunications Act of 1996

MB Docket No. 06-121

2002 Biennial Regulatory Review – Review of the  
Commission’s Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other  
Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the  
Telecommunications Act of 1996

MB Docket No. 02-277

Cross-Ownership of Broadcast Stations and Newspapers

MM Docket No. 01-235

Rules and Policies Concerning Multiple Ownership of  
Radio Broadcast Stations in Local Markets

MM Docket No. 01-317

Definition of Radio Markets

MM Docket No. 00-244

**COMMENTS OF RESIDENTS TESTIFYING AT COLUMBUS, OHIO**

**TOWN HALL MEETING SUBMITTED BY FREE PRESS**

On March 7, 2007 a “Town Meeting on the Future of Media” was held at the  
Broad Street Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio. Community leaders and members  
of the public testified to Commissioners Copps, Adelstein, and McDowell with their  
intention of submitting these comments into the official record (06-121). Some  
participants elected to write their testimony and submit it to the FCC. Handwritten or

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typed testimony is hereby submitted to the FCC to be placed in docket MB Docket No. 06-121.

## SUMMARY

Free Press, Consumer's Union, Common Cause, United Church of Christ Office of Communications, Metropolitan Church Council, Ohio PIRG, and Ohio Citizen Action sponsored a town meeting on the future of media in Columbus, Ohio on March 7, 2007. Nearly 400 people attended the event which took place at the Broad Street Presbyterian Church. The hearing featured opening remarks from FCC Commissioners Michael Copps, Johnathan Adelstein, and Robert McDowell, one panel, and a lengthy period for public testimony.

Anyone from the audience who wished to testify was allowed two minutes to address Commissioners Copps, Adelstein and McDowell about the media ownership rulemaking process underway at the FCC. Participants were informed that their public comments would be placed in the appropriate FCC docket and that they may hand in testimony if they did not wish to read it at the microphone. Testimony continued for nearly **four** hours – and comments were overwhelmingly opposed to increased media consolidation.

"I am concerned that only a few companies own most of the media," said 13-year-old Lucy Powell, a resident of Athens, Ohio. "This is my future, and I need to hear different viewpoints to know what is going on. Thank you for thinking about me and the rest of my generation as you make decisions on this important issue."

"When large companies take over local newspapers and radio and television stations, they strip the local news staff **and** package recycled news programming to the community, making the kind of reporting I witnessed in my early days as a social worker shallow at best and non-existent at worst," said Alvin Hadley, executive director of the Columbus Metropolitan Area Church Council.

"I **am** here on behalf of the men and women who care deeply about their profession — in part because they care about our democracy," said panelist Connie Schultz, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. "I mourn the changes in the media industry, but I am hopeful for the first time because hearings like this are happening all across the country. You, the FCC, have a chance to make it right, and we need you to make it right in Ohio."

The Columbus event was organized by Free Press, Consumers Union, Common Cause Ohio, United Church of Christ Office of Communications, Inc., Columbus Metropolitan Area Church Council, Ohio PIRG, Ohio Citizen Action, OK-Alliance, the Ohio/Kentucky Chapter of the Alliance for Community Media, Mid-Atlantic Community Papers Association, and Media Bridges.

Copies of the public testimony handed in at the event are hereby submitted to FCC Secretary Marlene H. Dortch for inclusion in the official record of MB Docket No. 06-121.

To the Honorable Members of the Federal Communications Commission:

Greetings to each of you and welcome to the great city of Columbus, Ohio.

My name is **Dr. Melvin V. Richardson**. I am, among other things, *an* ordained Baptist minister associated with Shiloh Baptist Church, here in Columbus; immediate past president of the Columbus Metropolitan Area Church Council, current president of the Greater Columbus Local Religious Programming Council (GCLRPC) and host of the television program entitled, “GOOD NEWS! – A Christian Ecumenical Magazine” – which, for at least the past four years, has been broadcast on the Hallmark Channel, Channel 23, on Time Warner Cable, at 6:30 a.m. on Fridays.

The program that I **host**, along with three others (a Christian Science program, a Presbyterian worship service, with primarily majority participants, and, until very recently, an African American Baptist worship service), have been made possible by the provision of air time without cost by the Hallmark Channel and Time Warner. The GCLRPC operates separately from Hallmark/Time Warner with its own board of directors and is, by agreement with Hallmark/Time Warner, afforded considerable leeway in selecting the religious programs that are broadcast to the approximately **326,000** customers of Time Warner in the Ohio area.

I, in my capacity as President of GCLRPC and host of the “**GOOD NEWS!**” program, wish to speak positively regarding the diversity of programming we have been providing. **My** program has provided features on such topics as the Catholic Church’s Russian religious icons, inner city and urban ministries of numerous denominations, the religions of the Native Americans, the whirling dervishes of Turkish Islam, the role of faith in politics, the role of religious faith in business from the Christian, Jewish and Islamic perspectives, African American choral music and its history and African Christian prayer, among many others.

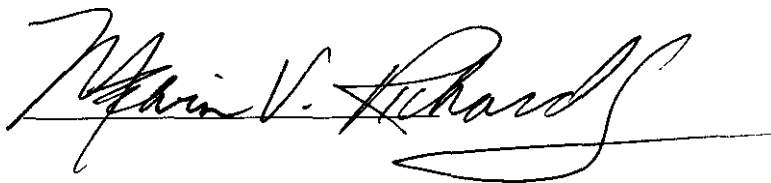
GCLRPC is in the process of selecting a replacement for the African American worship service and has a viable applicant and candidate undergoing the approval process. The candidate is a Turkish Islamic foundation which has agreed to also include programming, among other, representing Indian, Pakistani and African American Muslims' religious interests.

Thus, I would respectfully request that the Commissioners consider that the degree of media ownership may, alone, not be determinative of how well they are serving their communities; but rather, what efforts, programs, offerings, partnerships, programs, etc. are made available by and through the media within communities, irrespective of ownership, to allow and provide for more inclusive programming that can meet the needs and interests of communities' viewing publics.

We at GCLRPC believe that your inquiry may very well extend beyond the opportunities for diversity in local religious broadcasting within communities. However, we want you to know of our experience with Hallmark and Time Warner and the very positive feelings we have about the opportunities they have provided to offer diversity in local religious programming in Columbus and surrounding areas.

Thank you.

March 7, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rev. Dr. Melvin V. Richardson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Rev. Dr. Melvin V. Richardson

**America *Must* Have a New Fairness Doctrine:** Statement by Jack Burgess  
F.C.C. Hearing, Columbus, Ohio March 7, 2007

TO: Commissioners Jonathan Adelstein, Michael Copps, and Robert McDowell

We *must* have a new Fairness Doctrine. No other media reform will be able to fill the void caused by a lack of fairness in broadcast radio and television. This is not to say that other reforms and efficacious policies are not important or needed. Keeping the internet open and accessible to all, broadening the ownership of broadcast stations, and expanding public access broadcasting are all important parts of a strong, democratic communications matrix for America.

BUT MOST PEOPLE GET MOST OF THEIR NEWS AND OPINIONS---ESPECIALLY ON POLITICAL MATTERS---FROM BROADCAST MEDIA, SO WE MUST WORK TO PROVIDE VARYING POINTS OF VIEW ON RADIO AND TELEVISION. This is even more true of lower income people and senior citizens. The internet and public access broadcasting are not available to all, and are not appealing to all. We must work together to provide real fairness and balance in broadcasting, if our democracy is to succeed.

As you know, the original Fairness Doctrine grew out of the concept imbedded in the Federal Communications Act of 1934 which established that the broadcast airwaves belong to the people, not just to those broadcasters who have the money and equipment to lease the stations. In 1949 the FCC formalized this concept into the Fairness Doctrine, which required radio and television stations to give air time to those who would answer editorial opinions expressed by the stations. It also required that the stations broadcast "in the public interest," giving adequate time to local and national issues, and soliciting public comments on station operation. In actual practice, citizen commentary in answer to programs and editorials was not especially common, but the very existence of the rule seemed to work to hold in check a one-dimensional slant of opinion which might otherwise have been aired by the broadcasters.

In **1987** the Reagan administration's FCC rescinded the Fairness Doctrine and we have seen the result: A flood of largely one-sided opinion shows on radio and a standard of slanted programming and commentary on television. According to those who favored this deregulation, the increasing number of channels on cable and the airwaves would itself provide for diversity and a large measure of fairness. In fact, since ownership of stations and networks **is** almost solely in the hands of wealthy, majority men, we ordinary citizens, women, and minorities have had little or no input, and essentially no control, over programming, news, and editorial opinion. Studies by Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), for instance, show that while **51%** of the population is women, only **5%** of the TV stations are owned by women. And while 33% of the population is minorities, only 3% of the stations are owned by minorities. The resultant lack of representation of women and minorities can only be made up by a Fairness Doctrine which requires stations to pay attention to diversity and varying opinions. Again, it is obvious, but needs restating: The ownership and top management of nearly all—if not all---major media is in the hands of wealthy, majority men. The nature of our society and economic system is such that this is likely to be *so* for the foreseeable future. And, our economic system, absent any intervention, requires that they must be motivated primarily by the doctrine of the maximization of profit. Commercial stations need not so much the coercion of government, as the assistance of government to require fairness and

balance. If all stations are required to provide fairness, no one station is put at a commercial disadvantage.

In recent years a few **programs** of news and commentary have emerged which provide some counterbalance to the general trend of corporate-oriented **or** so-called conservative radio and television. They include the moderate to liberal **programs** such as Air America on radio and the Olbermann Report on MSNBC cable. Some may view this **as** a trend which, if continued, might provide the balance most Americans say they want. Possibly this could be the case, though I doubt it. For one thing, we know that Air America is having problems maintaining its place on the air, due at least in part to corporate-sponsor boycott, which simply highlights the problem in which any programming that steps too far out of line with what is wanted by corporate sponsors tends to get in trouble. We saw that very graphically with the cancellation of the Phil Donahue show during the lead-up to the current war in Iraq. Donahue tended to showcase guests who opposed the war, and even though his ratings were very good, and even though polls showed that a large portion of the American public also opposed the war, he was cancelled. **As long as** ownership and operation of most networks and stations continues to be in a few corporate, majority male hands, divergent programming and commentary will always be endangered.

Finally, an examination of current media commentary finds that most programs deal in polemics and verbal fireworks, more than in thoughtful commentary. More importantly, there seems to be a bifurcation among viewers in which people tend to watch the commentators with which they agree, and not those with whom they disagree. Thus, even if the programming and commentary overall were relatively even between liberal and conservative points of view, the net result would be a divisiveness in our society. This is a serious problem. Many have lamented the apparent coarsening of discourse and the polarization in our nation, and it seems to me that media programming and commentary are exacerbating that tendency.

A Fairness Doctrine, which would require a program of commentary to allow contrary comments to follow on the same program or station, might discourage some of the extremes, but more importantly would provide the same audience with different sides of the issues being aired. This, in turn, would improve the levels of knowledge and understanding of much of the American audience, which now tends to listen to or watch just one side or the other.

It should be noted that the original communications act, and the subsequent Fairness Doctrine, was adopted before the advent of cable or direct TV, but the logic which created regulation of airwaves could largely be applied to the newer mediums. **Part** of the rationale for the regulation of the airwaves was that they are limited and so must be used in the public interest. Clearly, there is also a limit to the number of cables or satellites that can be installed, so the FCC should take action to ensure fairness, at least in matters of news and public affairs, with those media as well.

Jack Burgess is an educator and writer. He studied radio and television at The Ohio State University, and holds a B.A. and M.A. from OSU. He also has aired a radio show on WCBE in Columbus, has appeared frequently on local radio and television, and has worked in the fields of public relations and labor relations. He lives in Chillicothe, Ohio.  
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## Testimony before 3 members of the Federal Communications Commission

Michael Copps, Robert McDowell, and Jonathan Adelstein.

Thank you very much for coming to Columbus and showing your sincere interest in our concerns.

In Columbus, we had progressive talk radio, including program feeds from **Air America** and the Jonas Network from September 2004 to December 2006. It was carried by the Clear Channel-owned 1230-AM station. Their slogan—which we heard many times every day—was . . .

### ***“Progressive Talk for the REST of US!”***

As of 2 months ago, **the REST of US** were abandoned when Clear Channel pulled the plug on that station's liberal talk format -- substituting a conservative format that **duplicates what already exists on the company's other Columbus stations**

I am very angry that I no longer have access to Air America and the Jones Network! I was a regular listener.

Clear Channel will probably tell you that progressive talk radio does not draw listeners or sponsors. They're **wrong!**

Case in Point:

In Madison Wisconsin, Clear Channel made an **announcement 3 days after the November elections** that its local progressive talk station would change its format to sports; sports was already being offered on their **other** stations in that market.

But . . . Madison people organized, held a mass meeting—I was **there**—and they gathered many signatures on petitions. Most of all, however, they **did Clear Channel's job for them; they went out and found plenty of sponsors!**

Clear Channel reversed themselves and the progressive talk radio format remains in Madison. Apparently Clear Channel learned a lesson here: If they wanted to squelch free speech for progressives on Columbus radio waves, they should not give people 6 or 7 weeks advance notice! Therefore, they gave us 2 weeks **notice!** When they **learned** there would be a demonstration in Columbus in support of progressive radio **on the last day**, they pulled the plug a day early! **Spite!**

When Columbus people went to the local Clear Channel office to deliver petitions, they were told to leave the property immediately or the police would be called. So **much for the idea that the public owns the airwaves!**





October 25, 2006

\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION\*\*\*

**AIR AMERICA BLACKOUT****HEWLETT PACKARD**

Dear Traffic Director:

Please be advised that Hewlett Packard has purchased schedules with ABC Radio Networks between October 30<sup>th</sup> and December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Please make sure you blackout this advertiser on your station, as they do not wish to air on any Air America affiliates.

Please see below for a complete list of all advertisers requesting that NONE of their commercials air within AIR AMERICA programming.

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American Heart Association	Epson	McDonald's	REI Sporting Goods
Avenis	Expedia.com	Marl Frontline	Rentway
Avon (all brands)	Exxon Mobil	MGM	Robert Half
Bank of America	Farmers Insurance	Michelin	Schering Plough ESPY's
Bayer (All Products)	FedEx	Microsoft	Schering Plough Tinctin
BMW Motorcycles	Foot Action	Morningstar	Sherwin Williams
Carrier	Frito-Lay	National Cattleman's Beef	Sony
Chetani - Capze sin	GE	Nestle	State Farm
Chetani - Gold Bond 1 <sup>st</sup> Aid	Gillette Venus	Nissan	Toys R Us
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Cingular	Hormel	P & G - Febreze	Visa
Clorox	Hyatt	P & G - Iams Dog/Cat Foods	Walgreens
Coke	Interstate Batteries	P & G - Pepto Bismol	Wal-Mart
Coly	J.C. Penney	Paramount (all)	Welch's
Deen's Morningstar Foods	Johnson & Johnson (all brands)	Pepsi	Wigley
Dell	Kohl's	Philip Morris	Wyeth
Denny's	Kraft Foods (all brands)	Pier 1 Imports	
Discovery Channel	Levi's	Ree Lobster	

Placement of these spots may be found on your weekly ABC Radio Network commercial schedule

We appreciate your assistance in communicating this request to everyone at your station involved in scheduling ABC Radio Network inventory. Please contact Nicole Loperena at (212) 735-1138 with any questions.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## **Presentation to FCC Hearing on Media Ownership Columbus Ohio, March 7,2007**

My name is **Greg Hoke** and I'm a teacher, Each semester I teach a new group of students about computernetworking and computer programming. Besides being a teacher, I am a resident of Columbus, the Capital of the state which handed victory to George Bush in **2004**. I observed first-hand the miscarriage of democracy in which people inside Columbus had to wait hours to vote, while people in the wealthy exurbs, such as Powell and New Albany, had no lines at all. In **2006** I helped MoveOn.org call progressive voters to come to the polls in November. In **2007** I have helped organize citizen lobbying efforts with member of Congress.

On February **9,2007**, the Dispatch published **an** article that Sen. Voinovich had signed a letter opposing the escalation of the war in Iraq. Those of us who want a peaceful resolution in Iraq were delighted to see that our Senator was acting on the mandate of the **2006** election. But when it came to a vote in the Senate about whether to vote on the House resolution against the escalation, George Voinovich switched sides. It's **as** though there is one view presented to the voters of Ohio, and another view inside the Beltway.

MoveOn organized a rally at George Voinovich's Columbus office. Veterans of Vietnam were to speak and hundreds of letters from Ohio residents were to be delivered to the Senator's staff. The newsworthiness of the event was apparently lost on the TV and radio stations in Columbus. It was not lost on the Cleveland Plain Dealer, nor was it lost on Sen. Voinovich's spokesman Chris Paulitz, who spent almost an hour on the phone with me the day before the Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> rally.

Media should cover all sides of the public debate, especially when veterans take the time to meet with their elected officials to urge them to stop supporting a failed foreign policy. These are our airways. They should reflect the interests and concerns of the people of Ohio. We need diverse, local ownership of the media.

### **February 22 Media Advisory Media Contact List**

**"Voinovich to Oppose Iraq buildup", Columbus Dispatch Feb. 9,2007**

**"Groups rally against Voinovich on war", The Plain Dealer Political Blog, Feb, 22,2007**

**YouTube video of Feb 9,2007 event:**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UQiWL7Rhlg>

# MOVEON.ORG POLITICAL ACTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

CONTACT: Dr. Verdena Lee  
Cell: 330-348-6096

## **Columbus Tells Senator Voinovich & Congress: 'You're the Decider: Stop the Escalation in-Iraq,'**

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More **Than** 225 Events Nationwide Reject Escalation &  
Urge Responsible Redeployment **of** American Troops

### ***Members Deliver 25,000 Letters to Congress at District Offices***

COLUMBUS—On Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, MoveOn members in Columbus Will hand-deliver letters With the message, "You're the Decider" -- urging Senator George Voinovich to stop blocking debate on the president's plan to escalate the war in Iraq and to take action to stop him. This event follows on the heels of Republicans once again voting to block debate on the president's escalation plan.

"Senator George Voinovich is the decider. He must stop the president *from* escalating the war," said Dr. Verdena Lee, MoveOn member in Columbus. "The majority **of** Congress opposes the escalation. Senator Voinovich must stop blocking the debate on the war. Congress must stop the escalation and bring our troops home," Dr. Lee concluded.

Speaker Alan Woods, a decorated combat veteran, will join local residents of Columbus to highlight why congress and citizens of Ohio oppose the president's escalation.

The letter writing began during 1200 nationwide screenings **of** *Ground Truth* last week, when Congressman John Murtha (D-PA) addressed tens of thousands **of** MoveOn members across the country, online, in an **effort** to help block President Bush's attempt to escalate his failed policy in Iraq.

**WHAT:** MoveOn members and Columbus residents deliver hundreds of letters to Senator Voinovich

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007  
Noon

**WHERE:** Senator Voinovich's office  
37 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio

These events are held in coordination with Americans Against Escalation in Iraq (AAEI). AAEI includes the Service Employees International Union, MoveOn.org Political Action, VoteVets.org, Center **for** American Progress Action Fund, USAction, Win Without War, Campaign for America's Future, Progressive States Network, Campus Progress, TrueMajority, Working Assets and the United States Student Association.

Media Contacts, MoveOn.org updated 1.22.07

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**WSYX TV Ch. 6**

Newsroom 481-6637

Fax 48 1-6624

**WBNS TV Ch. 10**

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Newsroom 460-3950

Fax 460-2891

**WTTE TV Ch. 28**

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Newsroom 481-6397

Fax 487-2555

**WOSU News 820 A.M.** (Note: no local news on TV)  
[news@wosu.org](mailto:news@wosu.org); attn: Mike Thompson

Newsroom 292-9678

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**WCBE 90.5 F.M.**

Newsroom 365-5555

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Ohio Public Radio Network

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## Voinovich to oppose Iraq buildup

Friday, February 09, 2007

By Jonathan Riskind THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

WASHINGTON — Ohio Sen. George V. Voinovich has joined a contingent of fellow Republicans backing a resolution to oppose President Bush's troop-surge plan for Iraq.



Sen. George V. Voinovich previously said a resolution of disapproval would be more politics than policy.

Voinovich was one of seven Republican senators to sign a letter Wednesday night calling on Senate leaders to stop partisan bickering and hold final votes on nonbinding resolutions about the proposal to add 21,500 U.S. troops to the forces in Iraq.

The impasse over simply casting Senate votes, as the House plans to do next week on at least one similar resolution, is "unacceptable to us and to the people of this country," the letter stated.

Voinovich said yesterday that he also plans to vote for an anti-surge resolution sponsored by GOP Sen. John Warner of Virginia, the main author of the letter. The resolution states disapproval of the Bush plan and calls for benchmarks the Iraqis should meet to show progress.

Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio also plans to vote for the Warner resolution should it reach a vote, his spokeswoman said yesterday.

Before the letter was sent out, Voinovich was among the Republicans who voted to block the Warner resolution from coming to a vote. Voinovich has expressed skepticism about the surge, but had said he was afraid a resolution of disapproval would be more politics than policy.

Yesterday, Voinovich said a vote is necessary to show the American people that their elected representatives are doing their jobs. And he backs the anti-surge resolution because it is time for the Iraqi government, not additional U.S. troops, to deal with growing sectarian violence in Iraq.

While it would be a "disaster" for Iraq and the region for the United States to withdraw its troops right now, "we think it's time for the Iraqis to ... deal with the sectarian problem," Voinovich said.

Meanwhile, Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich, D-Cleveland, who is running for president, called on the House to hold a vote on a "binding" resolution to end funding for the war.

House Minority Leader John Boehner, of West Chester, said Democratic House leaders' plans for a nonbinding resolution is "political theater" that will demoralize U.S. troops.

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## Groups rally against Voinovich on war

Ported by Reginald Fields February 22, 2007 15:49PM

About 15 people showed up outside Sen. George Voinovich's Columbus office Thursday for a lunchtime rally against the Republican lawmaker's recent action — or inaction, as they see it — regarding President Bush's call for an Iraq war troop surge.

Voinovich opposed a Democratic-sponsored House resolution against the president's plan and a resolution with similar intent co-sponsored by a fellow Republican senator. Yet he's skeptical of increasing the number of military personnel in Iraq and supports resolutions calling for further debate on this issue and others, including funding for troops.

The small downtown rally was organized by MoveOn.org, Americans Against Escalation in Iraq and ProgressOhio.Org. They derided Bush's policy and held up signs with messages for Voinovich: "Iraq Escalation: Wrong Direction," read one, with a picture of a street sign that indicates entry is forbidden. Another sign read, "Sen. Voinovich, you are the decider," a play on a Bush comment from last year when the president spoke about war decision-making and uttered the phrase, "I am the decider."

The group first went inside and spoke with members of Voinovich's central Ohio staff, including the regional director for about 30 minutes. The senator was not there.

"They understand he is against the surge but then on Saturday he voted against the House resolution," said Chris Paulitz, a Voinovich spokesman, who admits the senator's voting record on this issue might be confusing but his intent is clear. "We tried to explain to them that the reason he voted against the House resolution is because it's kind of a dumbed-down resolution. It stifles debate. He didn't vote for the surge, he voted to continue debating Iraq."

Thanks for ~~coming~~<sup>getting</sup> past the Potomac,  
coming to Columbus, and giving average  
citizens the chance to address FCC  
Commissioners.

I strongly support diversity in media  
and equal access to the Internet, but  
I have little to add to the comments  
provided by the other speakers tonight.

I want to speak tonight to something I  
feel is equally important with the  
media. I encourage the FCC to take  
back the airways for US citizens.  
Specifically I would like the FCC to  
require licensed media to provide  
prime airtime for all certified candidates  
for elections within a period of time  
before an election, say 30 to 60 days.  
The exact rules can be worked out by  
interested parties



Already, we are being asked to donate to 2008 presidential candidates, while the first contests are still almost a year away. The reason given for these requests is the high cost of media advertising.

Now, I want elected officials to represent us, the average citizen, not prostitute themselves hunting for bucks. Providing free airtime should reduce the cost of campaigns. Hopefully more viewpoints will be aired and encourage more candidates to run. Maybe it will even start ~~more~~<sup>real</sup> discussions of issues.

To me this is one of the most important issues that faces our republic today.

I've never run for office, I don't  
have any intention of running for  
office, but I'm tired of seeing  
politicians prostituting themselves so  
they can buy media time.

Thank you,

Steve Roggenkamp #92  
Powell 06

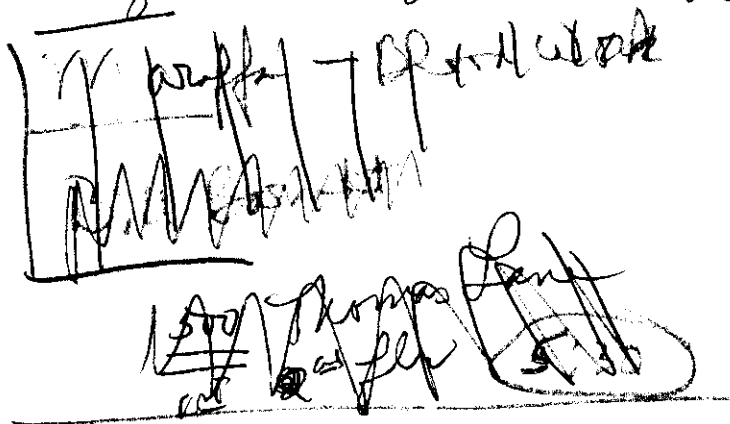
Marilyn Sheffler (SHREFFLER)  
White Presbyterian Sr. Citizen Active Volunteer  
Church Women United - Metro Area Church Council

I speak for rules which allow more small business  
to own/control the air waves, publishing <sup>companies</sup> the Internet.  
Two of my beloved air waves are NPR & PBS. They have many  
solid programs of classical music, of news programs  
that are in depth thoughtful analysis from local to world-  
wide. I've heard of large conglomerates like Verizon &  
AT & T that want to control the Internet. No No!!!  
I subscribe to both Verizon & AT&T but I don't want them  
to control phones or internet access. <sup>The nation <sup>is run from the</sup> major 3 TV stations</sup>  
<sup>because of so much violence</sup>

I see that 5% of TV stations are owned by women. Why  
not 20 or 50% — That Latino owned stations do not  
serve the majority of Latino homes — That Afr. Amer. homes  
are generally NOT served by Afr. Amer. stations. Asian  
Amer. not served by Asian stations.

My hope for our <sup>owned</sup> country is more access to free  
speech. When there is fair competition versus conglomerate  
ownership there is more hope for free open dialogue.

My relative spoke the opposite from me when I spoke  
with him. He's a businessman  
& we disagree. He's for selling  
air waves to large corp &  
making lots of money for  
someone. I totally disagree.  
WOSA & WCBE locally are  
struggling stations but they  
depend on listeners helping  
them survive. We help  
because we treasure their  
work.

  
Marilyn Sheffler

Doug Todd (1)

Commissioners,

My name is Doug Todd and I am an ordinary citizen who has been active in civic and public affairs for several years. You will hear a lot tonight about WTPG, the Clear Channel AM station, which changed its format away from Progressive Talk recently.

I have my own personal story about WTPG. I tried to buy advertising from WTPG last October to promote a conference on Ohio Voting Rights. The October weekend of this conference was just a few weeks before the November general election. To understand the context of this conference you should know that two major changes in voting laws in Ohio were made effective the first time for last Fall's election. These changes were the expansion of Absentee Voting and new polling place voter ID requirements. There were conflicting court decisions and a great deal of confusion until just days before the polls opened. A major purpose of this Voting Rights Conference was to educate voters and reduce this confusion.

My efforts to buy advertising at WTPG for this conference were met with indifference, condescension and, in my opinion, hostility. I called WTPG about three weeks before the conference believing there was time. The receptionist at the published number for WTPG answered the phone with the call letters of "WTVN" - which is a conservative talk station owned by Clear Channel featuring Rush Limbaugh. No mention was made of WTPG, but when I asked I was told that the number I reached was also for WTPG.

When I reached a sales person they said they would call me back. They did not. After a few days I left at least three messages and

voicemails over another two-day period. For days I got no response again. Then finally I got a call back a week later. The sales person who finally called wanted me to buy advertising on WTVN and not WTPG. I told her I only wanted to buy advertising on WTPG and wanted the rates. Finally I was given this information. But it took me nearly two weeks to get it.

During this period I sensed a great reluctance on the part of Clear Channel to sell the advertising I wanted to buy on WTPG. I explored the possibility of PSA's for the voting rights conference and felt the same reluctance. There was absolutely no "public interest" motivation on the part of Clear Channel to provide information or coverage of the critical election issues of the Voting conference. Issues that were vital to all political spectrums in Ohio. The message I got is that Clear Channel is only in Columbus for the money and has no interest in our local community and public affairs. In the end I felt getting spots produced and aired on WTPG would involve considerably greater effort than I had time to give and I looked for other alternatives.

I have owned two small businesses in the past over a period of twenty years. In all that time I never experienced such a cold reception to my interest in buying ads. Small business people are very busy and do not have the time to work through the kind of resistance I experienced from Clear Channel. Had I been a business trying to buy advertising I would have given up on WTPG.

Based on this experience, as well as my general impressions of the commercial radio market in Columbus, I have concluded that the Corporate absentee radio station ownership typified by Clear Channel

goes beyond ~~simply being not helpful~~ but is actually negative and hostile toward our community. I urge the FCC to take whatever measures are necessary to curtail and limit absentee media ownership in Columbus. On the other side, I hope the FCC will encourage the development of constructive community broadcasting on a much larger scale than we see today. Thank you.

## FCC Town Meeting, March 7, 2007

Good Evening! **Thank** you, Commissioners Copps, Adelstein and McDowell for **listening to our** views **about** further media **consolidation**.

I represent a grassroots nonprofit organization, Simply **Living**, whose 800 members hold a vision to "create a compassionate and sustainable world through personal, community and cultural transformation." Our media, which uses our publicly-owned airwaves, powerfully shapes **our** culture and **our** world. We want a voice in that media!

To that end, we are **one** of five original applicants for a low power FM license. Together we jumped through the hoop of becoming a timeshare. On October 5th, 2005, we received **our** construction permits, although one partner's application had been dismissed without explanation.

**In** our timeshare agreement, we had identified three tower sites that would bring LPFM to the eastern portions of **our** county. We are weeks away from being on the air....But already **two** of our three tower sites have been negated, due to FCC approval for a full-power FM commercial station to move into the Columbus market

Given current FCC **rules**, our one remaining tower site at any time could be silenced, **no** matter how much money, time, and sweat equity we invest or how much the community values **us**. These rules give greater value to for-profit radio than to radio that is fully committed to serving our community.

We call **on** the FCC to make rules that reflect **our** cry for localism, for broader

**community ownership, for a media in which our voices can sing out with our rich cultural diversity and a multitude of viewpoints that reflect our birthrights—citizen engagement and freedom of speech!**

***Marilyn Welker, Director, Simply Living  
205 Crestview Rd., Columbus, OH 43202***



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camisada@yahoo.com

Lucy Powell

Hi. My name is Lucy Powell. I am 13 years old and I'm from Athens, Ohio. I am concerned about the fact that only a few companies own most of the media. This is my future and I need to know what is going on without a biased opinion. I think that everyone should have a voice to say what their opinion is because I need to hear different viewpoints to get the whole picture. I'm only 13, but I do know enough to say that the reason people want to come to the US because of the freedom we have. I think the media should reflect that freedom that we have to say what we think. Everyone should have an equal say in the media and if only a few companies control our information, that can't be possible. Thank you for thinking about me and the rest of my generation as you make decisions on this important issue.